

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Training of Teachers/NKVD Surveillance

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Universetskaya Ulitsa.

The school was located on

2. The director of the institute was Inu Stasykitis, a man of about 50. He was a member of the Communist Party and taught history of the Party.
3.
4. Students at the Pedagogical Institute of Lubny were selected from a large number of applicants and about five hundred were admitted to the Pedagogical Institute annually. However, less than 50% of these would eventually graduate from the Pedagogical Institute.
5. Of a group, perhaps two hundred graduates of gymnasium, less than 5% would go to higher education.
6. In order to be admitted to the Pedagogical Institute it was necessary to pass some examinations, most of which were oral; although some questions were answered on the blackboard. The applicant was screened by the members of the faculty of the Pedagogical Institute in such fields as mathematics, geometry, literature, language, etc, and a committee of the faculty members decided as to whether the applicant would be admitted.
7. The faculty board was interested only in the scholastic ability of the applicant and not the politics of either the applicant or any members of his family. However, usually there was a Communist Party member on the board who was very much interested in the politics of the family of the individual concerned.
8. If an applicant was a son of a Communist Party member, even though he did not pass the scholastic examination, he would still be admitted to the Pedagogical Institute. In this connection, even if a student at the Pedagogical Institute failed all other courses but excelled in Marxism, Leninism, history of the

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Communist Party, etc, he could remain in school and any one who was outstanding in the above subjects was automatically earmarked for specialized work upon graduation.

9. There was no tuition fee at the Pedagogical Institute in Lubny, but supplies, such as paper, pencils, books, etc, had to be purchased by the students.
10. Students at the Pedagogical Institute in Lubny lived either in the one dormitory or in rooms in town. Students from the city were required to live at home.
11. The student body of the Pedagogical Institute during the period [redacted] totaled about two thousand, 65% of whom were girls and 35% men. Classes were held ordinarily five days a week, six hours per day, but this was subsequently increased to six days per week, and finally to seven days per week. Two months' vacation was given each summer. The only other holidays were state holidays, such as two days celebration of the October Revolution and other historical occasions.
12. The Pedagogical Institute had two types of training, one of which was of two years duration and entitled the graduate to teach in the elementary schools. The graduate of the four-year course was entitled to teach in a gymnasium through the first 10 years of education.
13. The Pedagogical Institute of Lubny had five faculties: Mathematics, physics, biology, agriculture, and language and literature. There were about 10 to 12 instructors for each faculty.
14. I majored in language and literature and it is rather interesting to note that the textbooks we used in many cases were translations of foreign authors, but were attributed to Soviet writers. We did Shakespeare, but were informed that Shakespeare actually was a revolutionary in the best Communist tradition.
15. We also studied the works of two noted Ukrainian poets, Ivan Franko and Taras Shevchenko who lived in about 1800. They are the most outstanding Ukrainian poets and we were told that "if they were living today they would be members of the Communist Party."
16. I mentioned that a group of five hundred students admitted to the Pedagogical Institute less than 50% would eventually graduate. Some flunked out, others could not afford to stay in school, and many were arrested.
17. In this connection, all faculty members were required to be Communist Party members, although actually on the faculty there were a number of Ukrainian nationalists who were operating under cover.
18. Some of the students were members of the Komsomol and they had privileges not extended other students. Many students wanted to join the Komsomol not only for the privileges extended, but to be able to help other students who got into trouble.
19. However, as is standard in Soviet institutions, all faculty members were supposed to spy on the students and each other. The students in turn were expected to spy on other students and on members of the faculty.
20. I was called to the NKVD headquarters in Lubny one day and told to observe one particular teacher and report everything he said or did of a suspicious nature.

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21. The NKVD headquarters were in the town of Lubny on Professor Street. I believe the name of the street has since been changed. It was an old building of stone construction and three floors in height. There was a stone wall approximately six feet high around the building, and while used as an office building it also had a prison. A number of cells were in the basement and there were also some on the roof. Cells with a capacity for five people frequently had up to 70 jammed in. There were no windows in the cells.
22. The NKVD in Lubny consisted of about 50 uniformed men and an unknown number operating in civilian clothes. There was also a military police detachment in the town.
23. In 1940 I used to hear of an underground movement, but I personally did not know any members of the movement.
24. If a student were arrested by the NKVD and accused of various crimes, it was standard practice to admit practically everything and to sign the charges. The reason for this was that it was felt that if you admitted guilt, although innocent, you had a chance to live though sent to Siberia. If one continued to deny the charges, he would be killed on the spot.
25. [redacted] of the faculty received about 400 to 500 rubles a month, depending on the hours worked. In this connection, a suit theoretically would cost 150 to 250 rubles, but there were none available. It was necessary to go to the black market. A suit of not too high quality would cost 700 rubles.
26. Students and teachers were required to devote evening hours listening to "culture sessions," listening to propaganda lectures and studying Communist literature to "improve" their minds and to encourage them to become good public speakers. Outside speakers from other cities spoke to us at these sessions. We were told that these meetings would "make a person a better citizen and better Party member."
27. In addition to the diploma and certificate which stated that the graduate was authorized to teach specific courses, the graduate was required to keep his "Student Book," a book which listed all of the classes he had attended at the institute and the grades received in each class.

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